

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 29, 2020, following the Board of Civil Authority Meeting, via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Justices Mary Leahy, Chris Bellamy, Ellen Halperin, James Arisman, Visitors Patrick Healy (School Board Chair); Jim Volz, Sasha Thayer, Charlie Cogbill, Tammy Farnham, Linda Wells; Library Director Susan Green; Library Trustee Kara Casey; Budget Committee Members Deanna Martin

At 5:59 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Public Comment: none

Town Meeting: Bobbi updated the Plainfield attendees about the Town's decision to use Australian ballot, and to count ballots using the tabulator.

Patrick Healy explained that the school would be in favor of moving the meeting date, but the school intends to work with the towns and whatever they decide.

Chris Martin explained that the extra time would allow the school more time to work on their budget.

Those present discussed the pros and cons of mailing the ballots to every voter. The Plainfield board has not had any discussions about this so they will need more time to make a decision. The Boards will get together again to discuss this.

Plainfield representatives and Mary Leahy left the meeting at this time.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of 12/15.

Susan Green and Kara Casey entered the meeting.

Budget: Susan explained the changes to the Library budget. The proposed budget is up 3.74% and the requested appropriation is up 4.91%. Rich asked about the Library's investment fund. Susan explained that it is there for emergencies. Rich explained that because the voting is by Australian ballot, if the library budget does not pass, there would be no appropriation unless we held a special town meeting. Kara and Susan agreed that they should discuss taking some money from their investments. They will discuss it at their meeting and get back to the Selectboard and Bobbi.

COVID Update: The Board will keep the Old Schoolhouse Common building closed until the next Selectboard meeting.

Personnel: At 7:10, the Board entered executive session to discuss job applications. They returned to open session at 7:35 p.m. They will interview two candidates.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: The Board reviewed the bids. Rich noted that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's cost is not the lowest but it is the lowest cost per hour, and they have the most experience. Rich will talk to them about the reason why they feel that they will need more hours.

Budget: The Budget Committee members attended the Selectboard meeting to discuss the proposed budget. The Selectboard does not expect to increase taxes.

Personnel: The Selectboard voted to increase salaries by 2%.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll and authorized Rich to sign them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the December 29, 2020 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
